

DISC5171-03
SPIRITUAL FORMATION 2
Spring 2015 Wednesdays at 2:00 PM
New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary
Division of Pastoral Ministries
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MISSION STATEMENT

The mission of New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary is to equip leaders to fulfill the Great Commission and the Great Commandments through the local church and its ministries.

CORE VALUE FOCUS

The core value being emphasized this year by NOBTS is Spiritual Vitality

CURRICULUM COMPETENCIES ADDRESSED

Spiritual and Character Development

COURSE DESCRIPTION

This course is the second of two semester-long, pass-fail experiences in a faculty-mentored group. The group will meet an hour weekly for accountability, mentoring, discussion, and spiritual formation in the company of others. It will include specific assignments from a variety of Christian devotional practices. This course is designed to be taken the Spring semester immediately following DISC5170.

STUDENT LEARNING OUTCOMES

As a result of this learning and growing experience, participants, deepening their relationship with Jesus Christ, should:

- deepen their understanding of the history and variety of practices of spiritual disciplines;
- demonstrate the desire for a meaningful and maturing relationship with God;
- experience the reality and value of Christian community in a small group setting;
- further develop their personal commitment to basic devotional practices through the daily choices and selected training exercises;
- display their ability to lead a small, discipleship group using basic principles demonstrated and practiced in the group meetings.

COURSE TEACHING METHODOLOGY

Methodology will include reading/reflection on the text through participation in class/group discussions; intense periods of personal spiritual preparation through the accountable exercising of various habits, practices, and disciplines; discernment, reflection and journaling of the journey; and the use of an integration paper to capture the various exercises, ideas, etc., reflecting on God's involvement in it all. Time will be spent in several class group exercises, field trips, prayer walks, and ministry experiences.

TEXTBOOK

Wilhoit, James C. *Spiritual Formation as if the Church Mattered: Growing in Christ through Community*. Grand Rapids: Baker Academic, 2008.

Reading Assignments

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|--------------|---|
| Jan. 21- | Introduction |
| Jan. 28- | Scripture Memory verses to be submitted |
| Feb. 4- | Chap. 1 |
| Feb. 11- | Chap. 2 |
| Feb. 18- | Chap. 3 |
| Feb. 25- | Chap. 4 |
| Mar. 4- | Chap. 5 |
| Mar. 11- | Chap. 6, pp. 114-131 |
| Mar. 18- | Chap. 6, pp. 131-146 |
| Spring Break | |
| April 1- | No reading - Retreat Discussion |
| April 8- | Chap. 7 |
| April 15- | Chap. 8 |
| April 22- | Chap. 9 |
| April 29- | Chap. 10 |
| May 6- | Scripture Memory Assessment, conclusion and wrap-up discussion, reflection papers |

COURSE REQUIREMENTS

1. The learner will follow a reading schedule (above) for reading the textbook and to be able to participate in a group discussion each week, assuming leadership for the group discussions at least once during the semester. Each week, EACH STUDENT will submit discussion questions for use in class concerning the assigned chapter. The questions will be submitted on the Blackboard Discussion Forum for the assigned chapter that week. At least one question should be submitted by each student concerning the content of each chapter. Also, at least ONE question should be submitted related to the application of the chapter to life situations. Questions should be submitted to the Discussion Board by Tuesday at 5:00 PM before the class period in which the chapters will be discussed. Class members will each have an opportunity to lead a class session and are responsible for printing off the questions and distributing them to class members. Students may also add additional questions for the week they lead the class discussion. Should a student fail to submit questions by the required date and time, then the student should

bring a one page essay related to some portion of the chapter and share thoughts from it in class. If the essay is not brought to class then the next week a 2 page essay on the following week's chapter should be prepared and brought to that class and shared.

2. On the date assigned each student will lead the discussion of the week's assigned reading. The leader will be responsible for printing out the week's discussion questions submitted on Blackboard and distributing them to the group. The student will see that the discussion moves along and that essential components of the chapter are discussed.

3. Scripture Memory- By Jan 28 submit a list of 10 Scripture portions that you will memorize during the semester. The first verse/s will need to be memorized by Feb. 4. Have one portion memorized for each class session. List your verses by the date of the first 10 class meetings between including and following Feb. 5. Your list should include the full text of the verse/s and indicate what Bible version you are using. You will be asked to recite your verses during class and will be expected to be able to recite all portions at the second to last class meeting. Emphasize Scripture dealing with spiritual growth, spiritual disciplines, and our relationship with the Lord and with others.

5. Spiritual Retreat- Plan and execute a one day spiritual retreat for yourself. It must consist of at least four hours of uninterrupted time away from your home, office, church, or place of employment. At least one week prior to your retreat submit a brief outline of what you intend to do during this time. The retreat must be completed by the end of the Spring Break. Be prepared to discuss your retreat on April 1. On Blackboard enter a brief discussion of the spiritual retreat on the Blackboard discussion forum before class on April 2. If the retreat is not completed by the Monday after fall break then the retreat will need to be 8 hours in length.

5. The learner will design and prepare a 2-4 page, double-spaced, 1st-person integration paper. The paper should allow the learner opportunity to reflect on the degree to which transformation has taken place in his/her life during the semester and how the student sees his or her role in the church in the areas of spiritual formation. Reflect on insights gained from the textbook. **The paper is due on May 6.**

5. Students are required to attend class. **If an emergency prevents attendance please e-mail or call the instructor prior to class**, if feasible.

6. Each student must enroll in the Internet assisted part of this course by January 24. Your course is Spiritual Formation II (Course ID DISC5171KTB). The access code is DISC5171KTB. (Note: The access code is case sensitive).

COURSE EVALUATION

This experience is a pass/fail course. The final grade decision will be made by the professor.

In the event that the normal NOBTS schedule is impacted due to a natural event or epidemic go to the seminary website for information. Our class will continue though our Blackboard site. Please note announcements and assignments on the Blackboard site in the event one or more of our classes is cancelled.

Discipleship Bibliography

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